

St. John's Monthly Newsletter
May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! I hope this letter finds you well. In the midst of many difficulties, questions, and concerns we can be assured of the one great truth of all time, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! In this is our hope and consolation. To this we cling when times appear dire.

While we are unable to meet in person we may find ourselves at a loss. We understand the need to come together in worship, to receive the Sacrament of the altar, and to pray together. Yet we now find ourselves without these opportunities. We watch the news, scroll through Facebook, and hear the chatter all around, each voice perhaps sounding very different. We are in the midst of a great spiritual struggle.

The Scripture reminds us, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philipians 4:6-7)

While you may still struggle with worry and fear during this current trial, know that the peace of Christ is yours as you trust in Him. While we may feel the sting of missing church, we can still lift up each other in prayer. The Lord is willing to hear us and wants us to cast our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7).

While we yearn for the day we can come together again to receive the Lord's gifts, let us remember to pray for the body of Christ, our local congregation and all those around the world. Likewise, we may still make good use of the time by checking on those among us who are vulnerable. They may need something like a grocery delivery or even the kind gesture of a simple conversation over the phone.

May the Lord teach us to rest in Him. May we be ever mindful that the peace of Christ, which is ours by faith, is given to us in all circumstances, but especially in times of great tribulation.

The Lord bless and keep you all until we meet together again.

In Christ,

Pastor Willie Grills

St. John's Members,

As we try to keep all our members informed during this time, we are sending out emails every Friday. If you or anyone you know is not receiving these emails, please email bailey@stjohns-mattoon.org so we can get them added to our system. In these emails we will include prayer requests, a treasurers report, elders report, any report from Rev. Eckardt, the church governing board, call committee, school, church office, or any other news we feel our members should be aware of. (There may not be a report from each of these boards/offices every week.)

As always, you may call the church office and leave a message. We are going in to check voicemail a few times a week. We are also picking up the mail from the post office 2-3 times a week. You can email bailey@stjohns-mattoon.org and we will most likely respond quicker that way. The emergency number that transfers directly to Pastor Grills will always be posted at the bottom of our weekly emails every week, is listed in this newsletter, and it is also on our message when you call the church. Please be patient with us as we try our best to navigate through this time. We are doing our best to keep everyone informed.

News & Announcements:

Emergency number: *(transfers to Pastor Grills)*

314-649-7495

**If you have an emergency or need immediate assistance please call the emergency number at 314-649-7495.

May Voters' Meeting:

The voters meeting has been postponed. More information will come as we make plans to reschedule.

Confirmation Update:

Confirmation that was originally changed to May 31 has been postponed once again with no date yet. More information will be available as we make new decisions and plans.

Online Church Services:

Please check our YouTube channel for the Sunday services. The bulletin is posted on the website and our St. John's Facebook page. To find the services on YouTube, go to www.youtube.com and search St. John's, Mattoon. If you are unable to find the services, please email Bailey and I will walk you through finding the channel.

Call Committee Update -

The Call Committee has received some preliminary documentation on the pastor call process from the district and we are working on getting it filled out. Please feel free to contact any of the following elders if you have questions or concerns about the call process:

Bill Havlik

Larry Miller

David Moore

Rick Shepard

Michael Stortzum

You may obtain the contact information for these elders by replying to this email or contacting Bailey in the church office.

School:

School chapel services are on Facebook live each Wednesday at 8:30 am. They are recorded and remain on the page if you are not able to view it live.

Baby Bottles:

Pat Wetzel has 50 baby bottles to fill for the Choices Pregnancy Center. If you would like a bottle from her, please contact the church office and leave a message. 234-4923. We will make arrangements to get you one.

Prayer Requests:

Those In Need of Comfort, Health, & Recovery (Recently Added):

Rachel – Julie Miller’s Daughter

Jill Ferree

Norma Schussler

Sandy McMillan

Dale Wheeler

Edith Creek

Tara Stortzum

Other Prayer Requests

Jason Wetzel – deployed in Iraq

Rob & Tabitha Ames – for aid in adoption

Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

Ava Gass

Shirley Kolbus

John Kendall

Bob Zschau

Chuck Cookson

***If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please email Bailey. We will not list names in prayers in our service due the public streaming of these services.*

Remember to be generous in your offerings to the church, especially at this critical time when services are suspended but expenses still continue. You can mail your offering to St. John’s or ask the church office to be registered for automatic monthly withdrawals from a checking account. The automatic giving form is also available under “forms” on our church website at www.stjohns-mattoon.org

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16)